

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 190926Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3947

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 1997

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, CY, ASEC, US

SUBJ: DAVIES CASE

REF: NICOSIA 1914

SUMMARY: THIS IS THE SIXTH STATUS/PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE MURDER OF AMBASSADOR RODGER P. DAVIES. JOHN PHERSON MADE FURTHER PROGRESS WITH ASST COMMANDER CYPOL FANNIS DEMETRIOU IN MEETINGS ON JUL 9 AND JULY 14. CYPRUS PRESS HAS BEGUN TO INTEREST ITSELF IN THE INVESTIGATION. ROUTINE INTERVIEWS OF FSLE'S BY POLICE INSPECTOR ANDREAS PETRIDES ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE EMBASSY AT THE PRESENT TIME. IN THE NEAR FUTURE CYPOL WILL BE BRINGING MANY WITNESSES TO THE AREA SURROUNDING THE EMBASSY TO ESTABLISH THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE PERSONS AND EVENTS DESCRIBED IN THE WITNESSES' STATEMENTS. DEMETRIOU PREDICTS "THE PRESS MAY HAVE A FIELD DAY" WHEN THESE WITNESSES ARE BROUGHT TO THE SCENE OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES' MURDER. THE "SOTIRIOU" INFORMATION HAS ADDED A NEW DIMENSION TO THE SCOPE OF THE CYPOL INVESTIGATION. PHERSON'S MEETINGS WITH "SCTIRIOU" ARE CONTINUING. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE JULY 9 MEETING, DEMETRIOU FURNISHED INFORMATION ON THREE ADDITIONAL PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN ACTIVISTS IN THE AUGUST 19, 1974 RIOTS:

A. CHRISTOS LEOLIDA. THIS PERSON IS EMPLOYED AS A MESSENGER AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TOOK PART IN THE DEMONSTRATION

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AS A MEMBER OF PASYDY (UNION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES). HE

ADMITTED TRYING TO OVERTURN AN AMERICAN VEHICLE. HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. HE THEN LEFT THE SCENE. CYPOL BELIEVES HIS STORY. NO FURTHER ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED RE LEOLIDA BY CYPOL.

B. MICHAEL CHRISTODOULOU, AKA "MIMIS". THIS PERSON WAS IDENTIFIED BY PASYDY DEMONSTRATOR NAMED SOFOKLIAS CHRISTOU POURGOURA AS ONE OF THE MEN AT THE SCENE WHO TRIED TO OVERTURN AN AMERICAN VEHICLE. "MIS" IS NOW WORKING IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA.

C. KONSTANTINOS DIOGENOUS CHRISTOFOROU, AKA "DINOS". THIS PERSON WHEN INTERVIEWED BY CYPOL, ADMITTED HE WAS AT THE SCENE IN A NATIONAL GUARD UNIFORM. HE WENT TO THE BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION WITH AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON. HE NOTICED "PEOPLE LOOKING AT HIM" SO HE LEFT THE SCENE, DROVE HOME, CHANGED TO CIVILIAN CLOTHES, LEFT HIS WEAPON AT HOME, AND RETURNED TO THE SCENE. HE DENIED FIRING HIS WEAPON AT ANY TIME. WHEN RELEASED FROM MILITARY SERVICE, HE RETURNED HIS WEAPON. THE POLICE HAVE TRACED THE WEAPON, CONDUCTED BALLISTIC TESTS WITH IT, AND HAVE CONCLUDED IT HAD NO CONNECTION WITH ANY AVAILABLE EVIDENCE. CYPOL SEARCHED "DINOS" HOUSE AND FOUND NOTHING OF AN INCRIMINATING NATURE.

2. THROUGHOUT JULY 13 AND ON THE MORNINGS OF JULY 14 AND 15, INSPECTOR ANDREAS PETRIDES INTERVIEWED FSLE'S AT THE EMBASSY. A TOTAL OF 34 WERE INTERVIEWED. TWENTY-FOUR GAVE WRITTEN STATEMENTS. THE INTERVIEWING WENT SMOOTHLY. PETRIDES WAS OFFERED COMPLETE ASSISTANCE BY THE EMBASSY. NO EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE PRESENT DURING THE INTERVIEWS. PERSON WILL DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THESE INTERVIEWS WITH DEMETRIOU IN A FEW DAYS.

3. DEMETRIOU IS PRESSED BY PERSON AT EVERY MEETING FOR A STATUS REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE IN IDENTIFYING THOSE PERSONS WHO WERE IN THE BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE EMBASSY FROM WHERE THE SHOTS WERE FIRED WHICH KILLED AMBASSADOR DAVIES AND MISS VARNAVA. AT BOTH THE JULY 9 AND JULY 14 MEETINGS, DEMETRIOU HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION EXCEPT FOR THE TENUOUS

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LEAD REPRESENTED BY THE "DINOS" CHRISTOFOROU INTERVIEW. ON JULY 14, PERSON FURNISHED DEMETRIOU THE THREE NEW NAMES HE HAD OBTAINED FROM "SOTIRIOU." DEMETRIOU SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED TO RECEIVE THESE NEW NAMES. HE SAID ALL HAD PAST RECORDS AND WERE EOKA-B SUPPORTERS, WHICH WOULD MAKE THEM LIKELY CONSPIRATORS AND KILLERS. HE WILL BEGIN TO LOCATE, THEN INTERROGATE THE THREE MEN IMMEDIATELY. (DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE THREE MEN, NEOPTOLEMOS GEORGIU, AKA LEFTIS; POLICE CONSTABLE

LOIZOS SAVVA, AKA LOIZOS NICOLAOU; AND FIRE BRIGADE MEMBER ANDREAS CONSTANTINOU HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.) PHERSON WILL SEE "SOTRIOU" ON THURSDAY NIGHT, JULY 15, IN AN EFFORT TO ELICIT FURTHER INFORMATION.

4. THERE ARE TWO MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE CYPOL INVESTIGATION WHICH ARE PENDING AND WHICH MAY RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN THE LOCAL PRESS. THEY ARE:
(A) CYPOL PLANS TO INTERVIEW IN DEPTH MICHAEL PANTELIDES, FORMER COMMANDER/CYPOL, WHOSE ACTIONS ON AUGUST 19, 1974, WERE BOTH ERRATIC AND ENIGMATIC. IT WILL ALSO INTERVIEW CYPOL CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ANDREAS RIGAS AND THE FORMER SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE THEN ACTING PRESIDENT CLERIDES. (THE LATTER PERSON IS ANDREAS PARISSINOS. HE HELD A POSITION AT THE UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL UNDER NICOS SAMPSON AT THE TIME OF THE COUP. CLERIDES RETAINED HIM AND ON THE DAY OF THE RIOTS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, PARISSINOS WAS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH CLERIDES. ON LEARNING OF THE RIOTS, CLERIDES IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED PARISSINOS TO THE SCENE, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF CLERIDES' BODYGUARDS. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT PARISSINOS PERSONALLY TRIED TO RESTRAIN PROESTOS FROM USING DYNAMITE IN THE DEMONSTRATION. HIS STATEMENT COULD BE OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTANCE.) (GL AT SOME TIME WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, DEMETRIOU WILL ARRANGE TO BRING THE WITNESSES OF THE EVENTS AT THE EMBASSY ON AUGUST 19, 1974, TO THE EMBASSY

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3948

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 1997

EXDIS

TO POINT OUT SPECIFICALLY WHERE THEY WERE AND WHAT THEY SAW.
A POLICE ARTIST WILL BE PRESENT TO SKETCH THE EVENTS AS
RECALLED BY THZGWITNESSES. DEMETRIOU HAS AGREED TO WORK

CLOSELY WITH PHERSON ON THE DETAILS OF THIS PROCEDURE TO AVOID PUBLICITY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. HE STATED CANDIDLY, HOWEVER, THAT "THE PRESS MAY HAVE A FIELD DAY" WHEN THEY LEARN WHAT IS HAPPENING.

5. AT THE METING ON JULY 14, PHERSON ASKED DEMETRIOU FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE PRESS ACCOUNT A FEW DAYS PREVIOUSLY WHICH STATED THE DAVIES INVESTIGATION FILE HAD DISAPPEARED. DEMETRIOU CONFIRMED THE STORY AS CORRECT. HE SAID THAT AS FAR AS CYPOL CAN DETERMINE THE DAVIES FILE DISAPPEARED SOME-TIME BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND SEPTEMBER 1975. DEMETRIOU WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT IN ALL IMPORTANT CASES CYPOL MAINTAINS TWO IDENTICAL FILES. HE PERSONALLY RETAINS CUSTODY OF THE SECOND DAVIES FILE. DEMETRIOU ASSURED PHERSON THAT NO SUBSTANTIVE INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE DAVIES CASE WAS MISSING. COPIES OF EVERYTHING WERE IN THE SECOND FILE.

6. IN THE UPCOMING INTERVIEWS WITH DEMETRIOU, PHERSON WILL BEGIN DISCUSSING THE INITIAL CONCLUSIONS BEING DRAWN BY CYPOL NOW THAT THE INTERROGATIONS ARE DRAWING TO A CLOSE. THIS SHOULD OPEN UP FOR DISCUSSION THE CRITICAL AREAS RE THE ADEQUACY OF THE INVESTIGATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SUPPORTING PROSECUTIONS.
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